As per the report submitted by the Chhattisgarh Government, an attempt of encroachment under Raipur Forest Circle in Pithoda Police station was foiled by the Forest and Police officials on 12.08.1995 and again on 28.01.1998. The forest land was lying barren and the local forest protection committee had passed resolution in November, 2001 for getting the area planted up. Forest Department started works preparatory to plantations from 08.01.2002. The encroachers tried to put obstacles in this work by sending their women folk and prevent the forest officials from carrying out afforestation work.

These encroachers were evicted on 18.02.2002 with the help of Revenue and Police officials including women constables. Forest Protection committee members were also present there. The encroachers including 13 women belonging to tribal & backward communities where arrested and released on bail the same day. The National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and National Commission for Women have taken notice of this and District Magistrate, Raipur has also ordered and magisterial enquiry.

(b) and (c) There is no plan to evict the bonafide inhabitants of forests from the forest areas. In case of protected areas where relocation of habitations situated inside National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries is undertaken in the interest of conservation of wildlife and its habitat and for the safety of human life and property, suitable arrangements for alternate land and other facilities are made for the purpose.

A decision has also been taken that all encroachments which are not eligible for regularisation as per guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests should be summarily evicted in a time bound manner. Since encroachment on forest land is an offence, they are not entitled for any relocation package.

Area under BT. Cotton cultivation

2545. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Bangalore edition of "Deccan Herald" dated 8th June, 2002 under the caption, "BT. Cotton may lose resistance to Bollworm in long run";

(b) whether it is a fact that the BT. Cotton loses resistance to the Bollworm and other pests over a period of time; if so, the extent of area in the country under the BT. Cotton cultivation, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to provide relief to the existing growers of the BT. Cotton in the country; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BT. cotton has been under cultivation since 1995 in seven countries. Resistance of cotton bollworm to BT. cotton has not been reported anywhere even after seven years of cultivation. The Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company (MAHYCO) has been accorded approval for cultivation of three BT. cotton hybrids (namely, MECH 12, MECH 162 and MECH 184) in March 2002 only. The details of BT. cotton seeds marketed by the company (in terms of packets of seeds of 450 g., each of which is sufficient for one acre) in various States during Kharif 2002 is as follows:—

State	MECH 12 BT.	MECH 162 BT.	MECH 184 BT.	Total
	Number of packets of seeds			
Gujarat	190	10340	11605	22135
Maharashtra	281	23250	13335	36866
Andhra Pradesh	110	13910	0	14020
Madhya Pradesh	150	110	4390	5550
Tamilnadu	0	5107	1650	6757
Karnataka	0	9570	200	9770
TOTAL:	731	63187	31180	95098

(c) Does not arise.

Stockholm Convention on POPs

2546. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed the Stockholm Convention aimed at phasing out the production and emission of one dozen Persistent